



The Division of Fish & Wildlife's programs for disabled hunters

A variety of hunting opportunities and facilities exist for disabled hunters in Delaware. State wildlife areas offer specialized blinds/stands and accessible hunting locations to meet the needs of individuals with varying degrees of physical disabilities. In addition to hunting facilities, the Division also offers specialized permits, i.e. crossbow and hunting from a vehicle to assist hunters with more serious physical limitations to enjoy the outdoors. To participate in these opportunities, disabled hunters must first complete an application. The information provided will help Division staff verify a hunter's disability and correctly identify the best service to meet the needs of the individual.

Disabled hunters will be grouped into two categories.

Category one hunters are defined as individuals with serious physical limitations confining them to the use of a wheelchair for movement. Non ambulatory hunters will be given priority for use of disabled facilities on state wildlife areas.

Category two hunters are those individuals with other physical impairments which precludes their use of traditional hunting facilities/equipment. These individuals may be eligible for state stands/blinds and other special permits.

Hunting Opportunities For Disabled Hunters

Facilities: Deer stands and waterfowl blinds by permit. Permits are available via pre-season and daily lottery.

To apply for the facilities listed below, please call the Wildlife Section at (302) 739-5297 for instructions.

AREA	DEER STANDS	DEER HUNTING LOCATIONS	WATERFOWL BLINDS
Cedar Swamp	1	2	1
Woodland Beach	8	0	1
Little Creek	1	0	2
Ted Harvey	0	3	1
Assawoman	3	4	1

PROCEDURE FOR ISSUING DISABLED HUNTER PERMITS

Waterfowl permits

Category one hunters – Individuals who are confined to a wheelchair. Category one hunter can call the appropriate checking station for the area they wish to hunt on the day before the hunt and reserve a blind. If there are more hunters than available blinds, a mini drawing will be conducted to decide which hunter may hunt. The drawing will be conducted at 11:00 AM on the day preceding the hunt. If the Category one hunter prefers not to reserve a blind he or she may also participate in the daily drawing(s) conducted at the various checking stations.

Category two hunters – Individuals with some disability preventing the use of traditional blinds but not confined to a wheelchair. These hunters may reserve a blind (one time per hunting segment – waterfowl split) by calling the appropriate checking station for the area they wish to hunt. If there are more hunters than blinds, a mini drawing will be held to select which individual will hunt. After the category two hunters have exhausted his or her scheduled hunts, they must participate in the daily drawing and compete with other hunters for a blind.

Deer permits

Category one hunters – Disabled deer stands and hunting locations will be issued via preseason lottery for the shotgun season. For all other seasons deer stands and hunting locations will be issued by the call-in procedure used to issue waterfowl blinds.

Category two hunters – Stands will be issued by preseason lottery for the shotgun season. For all other seasons' hunters may reserve a stand as prescribed for the waterfowl blind permits (1 per deer season) or they can participate in the daily drawing and compete with other hunters for available deer stands.

Special Hunting Permits

Crossbow – Individuals may hunt with a crossbow if they meet one of the following criteria. The applicant is:

1. Confined to a wheelchair; or
2. Single or double amputee above the elbow, or
3. Double amputee below the elbow; or
4. Have a permanent physical disorder which cannot be surgically corrected and prevents the use of an arm; or

5. Suffers from lung disease to the extent that forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one (1) second when measured by Spiro meter is less than one (1) liter or arterial oxygen tension (po) is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest; or

6. Is impaired by cardiovascular disease to the extent that functional limitations are classified in the severity as Class III or Class IV according to the standards accepted by the American Heart Association.

Click [here](#) for a crossbow hunting permit application.

Hunting from a vehicle – Based upon doctor's confirmation of disability, non-ambulatory hunters may be permitted to hunt specified game animals from their vehicle. Click here [here](#) for a permit application to hunt from a vehicle.